

MOURGES COVE - Living Shoreline

Year Constructed: 2021-2022

Location: Virginia

Project Size: 400 units

Project Type: Living Shoreline

Client: Private

Reinforcement: Earth Anchors

Vegetation: Spartina Plugs

Designer: Chris Davis of Ready Reef

+ Project Snapshot

This living shoreline application incorporates the use of oyster sills and the Envirolok system to create a resilient, habitat-friendly solution in the salty backwaters of the Virginia coast.

Past efforts to stabilize public and private shorelines focused on stone and man-made sea walls. While these solutions look good on paper, they create dead zones along the water and shore and are less resilient than living shoreline solutions.

Many of the states along the east coast are now focusing on the use of living and bio-engineered solutions. Not only have these methods proved more resilient to rising waters and storms, they increase water quality, useability and property values.

Chris Davis, owner of Ready Reef, Inc of Virginia has taken his passion for living shorelines to a whole new level. His design approach blends a mixture of natural and bioengineered products to create natural shoreline solutions that stand the test of time. By designing with biomimicry, Chris is able to tame the shoreline edge using ecological and structural cues from oyster fields, salt marshes and tidal flats. While vegetation is an important key to the success, oftentimes, the native vegetation needs a helping hand. That's where Ready Reef incorporates bio-engineered stabilization solutions like their custom Oyster WADS, Flexamat and the Envirolok system.

This project in Mourges Cove is just one of many examples of the successful integration of bioengineered products to create a live shoreline that is habitat friendly and resilient.